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257 Van Buren St., Apt. A
Monterey, CA 93940
May 20, 1999

Commissioner Jane E. Henney
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Parklawn Building, Rm. 14-71
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

CC: Sen. Dianne Feinstein
Sen. Barbara Boxer
Rep. Sam Farr

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Dear Commissioner Henney:

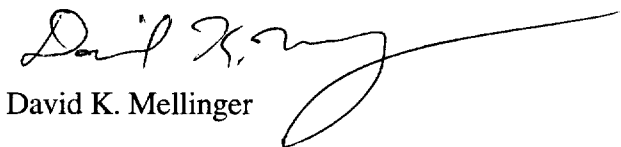
I urge you to prohibit the use of antibiotics in animal feed. As you know, adding antibiotics to feed helps animals grow large faster than they would otherwise. Unfortunately, it can also result in bacteria resistant to those antibiotics, with potentially large negative consequences for human health.

The European Union has called for a ban on four types of antibiotics fed to animals. I believe that we should lead the world on this issue and ban all antibiotics that are used in human medicine, as well as all antibiotics which are chemically similar to those used in medicine. Antibiotic-resistant bacteria can leave physicians with no way to treat life-threatening bacterial infections in humans. In addition, the benefits of using antibiotics in animal feed – larger, faster-growing animals – are small compared to the risks that antibiotic-resistant bacteria pose to treatment of disease for both humans and other animals.

Before any antibiotic is added to animal feed, it should be proven that this action will not harm human health. The burden of proof should clearly rest on those who wish to add antibiotics to animal feed, not those who wish to restrict their use.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


David K. Mellinger

99P-0485

C-797



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